

SENATE BILL 1898  
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 63, Chapter 6, Part 2, relative to persons engaged in the practice of medicine.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Section 39-17-112.

(a) It is an offense for any person who is licensed in this state to engage in the practice of medicine as defined in § 63-6-204, and against whom a civil judgment has been entered by a trial court awarding monetary damages for acts or omissions constituting medical malpractice or who has entered into a settlement involving medical malpractice to knowingly fail to report the entry of such judgment to the board of medical examiners.

(b) The provisions of this section are effective only as to judgments or settlements entered against the licensed person after the effective date of this act. However, once a reportable judgment or settlement is entered, the licensed person shall then be required to report all judgments or settlements that have been entered against

the person for medical malpractice, regardless of when such judgments or settlements occurred.

(c) A violation of subsection (a) is a Class E felony.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-6-214, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(o)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, the board shall review the license of any person under its jurisdiction who has had five (5) or more settlements or judgments entered alleging medical malpractice against such person.

(2) If the provisions of this subsection are applicable to a person within the board's jurisdiction, the board, after a hearing conducted under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5, may suspend the license of such person for a minimum of six (6) months for each suit alleging medical malpractice that resulted in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff or a settlement in which the plaintiff received monetary damages.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003, the public welfare requiring it.